

Message Text

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ORIGIN SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 /076 R

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M - MR. EGAN

S/S -REWOODS

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O R 130209Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 007740

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF KAGNEW TWO

REF: KHARTOUM 96

1. REFTEL REPORTED FONMIN AHMED'S REMARK THAT SUDANESE

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EFFORTS FOR THE RELEASE OF THE REMAINING CAPTIVES WOULD NOT

BE MADE EASIER BY THE DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN JANUARY 9
REPLY TO A QUESTION THAT NO RANSOM WAS PAID OR CONCESSIONS
OF ANY KIND MADE TO OBTAIN THE KAGNEW TWO'S RELEASE.

2. AS THE EMBASSY IS AWARE, THE DEPARTMENT AVOIDS PUBLIC REITERATION OF THE USG'S NO-NEGOTIATIONS, NO-RANSOM, NO-CONCESSIONS POLICY DURING ABDUCTION INCIDENTS, IN ORDER TO AVOID UNNECESSARY PROVOCATION OF ABDUCTORS WHILE HOSTAGES REMAIN UNDER THEIR CONTROL. ON THE RELEASE OF AMERICAN HOSTAGES, HOWEVER, IT HAS BEEN OUR PRACTICE, AS FOR EXAMPLE ON THE RELEASE OF COL. MORGAN IN BEIRUT LAST JULY, TO STATE PUBLICLY THAT THE USG MADE NO CONCESSIONS TO OBTAIN SUCH RELEASE, SO THAT THIS MAY BE EVERYWHERE UNDERSTOOD FOR ITS DETERRENT VALUE. SUCH A STATEMENT WAS NOT VOLUNTEERED BY THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ON THE RELEASE OF THE KAGNEW TWO BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBLE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES IT MIGHT HAVE FOR THE REMAINING CAPTIVES. HOWEVER, THE SPOKESMAN HAD

BEEN BRIEFED THAT BECAUSE OF THE SUSPICIONS THAT ARE ALWAYS PRESENT WHEN AMERICAN CAPTIVES ARE RELEASED THAT CONCESSIONS OF SOME SORT HAVE BEEN MADE TO SECURE THE RELEASE, HE SHOULD MAKE UNEQUIVOCALLY CLEAR IN RESPONSE TO ANY QUESTION ON THE SUBJECT THAT NO RANSOM HAD BEEN PAID OR CONCESSIONS OF ANY KIND MADE. A QUESTION WAS PUT AND THE SPOKESMAN MADE THE APPROPRIATE CLEAR AND EMPHATIC RESPONSE.

3. THE EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM THE GOS THAT WE ARE CONFIDENT IT WILL APPRECIATE THE IMPORTANCE THE USG ATTACHES TO ITS NO-NEGOTIATIONS, NO-RANSOM, NO-CONCESSIONS POLICY NOT ONLY BEING STRICTLY FOLLOWED IN ABDUCTIONS OF AMERICANS ABROAD BUT ALSO OF THAT POLICY'S BEING EVERYWHERE BELIEVED AND RESPECTED. THIS APPLIES TO THE ELF AND PLF NO LESS THAN TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OR GROUPS WHICH KIDNAP, OR MAY BE TEMPTED TO KIDNAP, AMERICANS IN THE HOPE OF BLACK-MAILING THE USG INTO RANSOM OR OTHER CONCESSIONS. THE ELF AND PLF NOT ONLY CONTINUE TO HOLD THREE AMERICANS BUT THEY ALSO, AS THE ELF RECENTLY DEMONSTRATED WITH ITS SEIZURE OF MICHALKE, CONTINUE TO POSE A VERY REAL THREAT TO OTHER AMERICANS IN ERITREA. WE REGRET IF THE PUBLIC CLARIFICATION WE CONSIDERED IT NECESSARY TO MAKE, IN RESPONSE TO A CONFIDENTIAL

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NEWSMAN'S QUERY, THAT NO RANSOM OR OTHER CONCESSIONS WERE MADE TO THE ELF FOR THE RELEASE OF THE KAGNEW TWO HAS COMPLICATED SUDANESE EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE REMAINING CAPTIVES. WE EARNESTLY HOPE THAT IN RECOGNITION OF THE FACTORS ADDUCED ABOVE, WE CAN CONTINUE TO COUNT ON SUDAN'S VALUED AND MUCH APPRECIATED ASSISTANCE FOR THE RELEASE OF THE REMAINING THREE CAPTIVES. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, EXTORTION, HOSTAGES, LIBERATION FRONTS, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JAN 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE007740
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RAFEAREY:IJG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760011-0324
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760162/aaaacccpj.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SCCT
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 KHARTOUM 96
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <23 AUG 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RELEASE OF KAGNEW TWO
TAGS: PINS, SU, ELF
To: KHARTOUM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006